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NOTES AND QUERIES.

GEOGRAPHY-RHYMES.—In the Boston “Evening Transcript” some discussion of this topic has recently taken place. The following is from the issue for January 28, 1905:—

I should like to tell of some of the methods of teaching by means of singing used in a Maine country school forty-five years ago. We learned the multiplication tables by a sort of chanting, thus:—

Two times one are two,
Two times two are four,

and so on, with a rousing chorus of

Five times five are twenty-five,
Five times six are thirty,

and so forth, sung to the air of “Yankee Doodle,” and following each table.

The whole school enjoyed this, and never failed to come out strong on the chorus, although often it was a forlorn hope which carried along the tables of sevens and eights!

This seems to have been a precursor of the modern kindergarten methods, except that we were learning something useful. We had another singing exercise whereby we learned our geography. I recall one verse relating to the rivers, which was sung to the tune of “Oh, Come, Come Away”:—

Oh, come, let us sing
Our country’s noble rivers;
St. Lawrence gay begins the lay,
St. John’s now we see;
Aroostook, Allagash, we note,
Machias and St. Croix we quote,
And then a line devote
Penobscot, to thee.

We had a small geography book containing many rhymes set to such familiar tunes as “Bonnie Doon” and “Flow gently, sweet Afton.”

The countries and their capitals were also learned by a sort of chant, and the words were often amusingly twisted to fit the measure, as “Mexi”—co, the capIital is M’exico.” The various bodies of water were served up in groups of threes, with a repeat:—

Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean.

Or

Great Slave Lake, Great Bear Lake, Lake of the Woods.

Perhaps some one who reads this may recall a similar experience, and also may remember the title of that old geography song-book.

H. J. C.

VIEWS OF A MOHAWK INDIAN.—In the Toronto “Evening Telegram” (January 18, 1901) appeared the following item:—